

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Fort Smallwood Park Inventory Number: AA-898
 Address: 9500 Fort Smallwood Park Road City: Pasadena Zip Code: 21133
 County: Anne Arundel County USGS Topographic Map: Sparrow's Point
 Owner: Anne Arundel County Is the property being evaluated a district? X yes
 Tax Parcel Number: 16 Tax Map Number: 18 Tax Account ID Number: 90102788
 Project: _____ Agency: Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks
 Site visit by MHT Staff: X no yes Name: _____ Date: _____
 Is the property located within a historic district? yes X no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes X no Individual resources determined NR eligible (1987)

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Anne Arundel County Site Files, AA-898 Fort Smallwood.

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

In 2006 Anne Arundel County, Department of Recreation and Parks acquired Fort Smallwood Park from Baltimore City. Park resources, both built and natural were in poor condition due to a combination of neglect, vandalism and storm damage. This *Determination of Eligibility* evaluation has been prepared as part of the Department of Recreation and Parks comprehensive planning process, to assist them as they move forward with the restoration of historic resources and addition of new facilities. A separate archaeology survey is also being carried out in conjunction with this architectural evaluation.

Description Summary

Fort Smallwood Park is a 100-acre recreational water-front facility located in northeastern Anne Arundel County, Maryland at the end of the Pasadena Peninsula. The County-leased property is situated on the south side of the Patapsco River, near the confluence with the Chesapeake Bay, at a place known to mariners as "Rock Point." The Park has more than 5,000 ft. of waterfront and panoramic views of Sparrow's Point industrial works, the Key Bridge and Chesapeake Bay. A total of 12 buildings or structures are present. Of that number 10 are more than 50 years old and 7 were recorded in a 1987 survey. Present-day resources include the Hartshorne Battery and the former Barracks Building, both of which date to the facility's original use as a military installation. Five buildings or structures were constructed between 1931 and 1947 after the garrison

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Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Comments: Entire park is eligible for NR as historic district. Concession Stand, Barracks, Comfort Station, Pavilion, Hartshorne Battery (buildings C, G, A, E, F, H) contribute to significance of eligible district.

Jonathan Sager
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Bluntz
Reviewer, NR Program

Date

201300244

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was converted into a Baltimore City public park. Other buildings include 3 small, previously undocumented service support structures that appear to be greater than 50 years of age. A modern restroom and manufactured "trailer" building complete the list of existing buildings. Fort Smallwood Park presents itself as a largely natural landscape. Surviving park-era buildings, as well as being few in number and widely distributed around the property, are generally small and relatively plain creations. The eye is drawn not to human-made elements, but to scenic water views, open space, trees or fields. Fort Smallwood Park's arrangement is not a formally designed landscape. The park's creators took advantage of existing natural features and inherited landscape elements from previous occupants. For example, a large section of the park's road alignment was inherited from the military, or perhaps even farm, period.

Eligibility Summary

Previous Findings:

In 1987 the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) concurred with a Baltimore Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) finding that Fort Smallwood Park's Barracks Building (C) and Hartshorne Battery (G) were individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, 2 Concession Stands (A & H), 2 Comfort Stations (B & E) and the Pavilion (F) were described as having "local significance." The wording of that document is unclear and indicates that while those resources are of historical and architectural merit, they do not possess a level of importance that warrants National Register listing. The 1947 and 1951 Bathhouse complexes (D and I) were determined to have "no significance." Please refer to attached correspondence at the end of this document. (Note: letter designations were assigned during the 1987 survey and repeated in this document for purposes of continuity. See Figure 4.)

Current Findings:

Fort Smallwood Park does not qualify for listing as a National Register Historic District due to loss of integrity.

Six historic buildings or structures appear to individually meet National Register requirements under Criterion A (events) and C (architecture). Eligible resources are the Barracks Building (C), Hartshorne Battery (G), Concession Stand (A), Comfort Station (E), Pavilion (F), Concession Stand (H). These resources are not eligible for listing under Criteria B (Person) as there is no direct connection between Fort Smallwood Park and a person significant in our past, nor does the Park appear to have enough potential to yield important information to qualify for listing under Criterion D (Information Potential).

Justification Summary:

The Barracks and Hartshorne Battery possess significance under Criteria A (events) and C (architecture). With respect to Criterion A, Fort Smallwood was one of 4 Endicott Period installations located along the Patapsco River, and among a total of 29 facilities constructed to protect the nation's coasts and harbors (Figure 1). The 2 Fort-era resources are also architecturally significant as examples of standardized military plan architecture typical of the period of construction. Furthermore, these resources may also be eligible as part of a multiple property nomination related to Endicott Period military architecture.

The 4 surviving principal park-era resources are also individually eligible under both Criterion A and C. Although park buildings are few in number and rather unremarkable in character, these modest, inexpensively constructed buildings and structures are a fragile class of resource. While large bathhouses, carousels, pavilions and arcades are recorded in MHT files, small buildings such as those at Fort Smallwood are not well documented.ⁱ A review of MHT inventory photographs of park and beach resorts indicates that these small buildings have rarely been recorded. A reconnaissance survey of local parks and resorts suggest the type of recreation service buildings that survive at Fort Smallwood Park have largely disappeared from the landscape.

Despite the presence of a concentration of historic resources linked through historic associations, Fort Smallwood Park is not eligible for listing as a National Register Historic District due to a lack of integrity. The park is neither a good example of an

ⁱ North Beach Concession Stand (CT-1275) and North Beach Amusement Complex (CT-1251) are among the rare exceptions. MIHP district surveys generally fail to record the type of structures seen at Fort Smallwood Park.

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Endicott Period fortification nor a mid-century place of recreation. The majority of buildings and structures that once defined both the Fort Smallwood and Fort Smallwood Park landscapes have been lost. Only 2 of at least 10 original buildings and structures survive from the military period. One of the Fort's 2 original gun batteries is among the demolished structures. Only 5 principal and 3 minor historic park-era buildings survive out of the several dozen that were constructed in the 30s and 40s to accommodate the planned maximum 25,000 daily visitors. Four historic park-era resources have been lost since 1987, including a "Jim Crow" bathhouse complex that was subject of an important federal Civil Rights lawsuit.¹ Other surviving historic buildings are in need of repair, especially the c. 1931 concession stand which sustained extensive damage during Hurricane Isabel (2003). The park lacks a sufficient concentration and continuity of resources to warrant National Register Historic District designation.

General Description

Fort Smallwood Park is a 100-acre partially wooded cultural and natural landscape with historic standing structures related to its brief use as a military garrison and the long-term function as a public park. Apart from the placement of the two military-era buildings, there is no evidence that the current landscape is a product of any formal design scheme. The park was chronically underfunded and there is no record that the City of Baltimore engaged a landscape architect. Except for the placement of the Gun Battery (G) and central position of the Barracks Building (C), building placement and road layout appear to be guided by topography and practical concerns rather than plan.

There are a total of 12 buildings or structures dispersed across the property. This number includes 7 principal historic resources, 3 small historic support structures related to water and electricity and 2 modern buildings. Two of the 7 main historic buildings are associated with the park's military period, 4 are 1930s-era park buildings, and 1 dates to 1947. Two modern buildings, including a prefabricated metal trailer, are also present (Figure 4).

Historic resources are largely concentrated in one of two waterfront areas. The Concession Stand (A), Picnic Pavilion (F), and Comfort Station (E) are located on the park's west side near the newly rebuilt fishing pier. The relocated 1930s Concession Stand (H), 1947 3-building Bathhouse Complex (I), and previously unsurveyed 1950s brick Electrical Support Building are found at the north end of the park near the Hartshorne Battery (G). The 1905 Barracks (C), along with a previously undocumented modern trailer and a small c. 1950s brick building, are located on a high point of land near the south-center of the park. A 1980s restroom and post-2006 playground equipment, ball courts, hiking/biking trails, picnic areas, parking lots complete the list of manmade features. Natural features include large stands of mature trees, long stretches of natural beach, a freshwater pond and wetlands.

Roads are limited to a narrow, one-way paved loop that circles the park near the water, with a narrower unpaved road running through the center of the park. Approximately half of the present road follows the alignment depicted 1904 Fort Smallwood site plan (Figure 3).

Individual Resources Description

Note: Figure 4 shows building locations.

1) Concession Stand (c. 1932): This is one of the park's oldest, but also most deteriorated structures. It is listed in the 1987 survey as *Resource A*. It was badly damaged by Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The 1-story building measures roughly 20' x 12' and is constructed in the shape of an irregular dodecagon. The building's frame upper walls rest on a poured concrete base. The plain lap siding in the upper section is probably replacement material. Two eyebrow windows are found on either side of the badly damaged standing-seam metal roof. A wooden shade canopy once surrounded the 12-sided building, but less than half remains due to storm damage. Most of the posts that support the surviving section of canopy have been replaced. The canopy's violent removal has exposed the plate and allowed for water infiltration and resulted in large sections of rot. The problem is compounded by significant siding damage and partial roof loss.

History: A May 1, 1932 Baltimore Sun article announced that the park's picnic grounds and concessions areas were ready for that day's season opening. New facilities included a concession building constructed at a cost of \$5,000.²³ This building is believed to be among those 1932 improvements and is possibly the concession building mentioned in the article, though the \$5,000 cost seems excessive for a structure of such modest dimensions.

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Previous Status: Locally Significant (1987).

Recommended Status: Individually Eligible.

2) Barracks (1905): The Barracks is the park's oldest surviving building and except for some minor issues is in good and relatively unaltered condition. It is identified in the 1987 survey as *Building C*. It is a 1 1/2-story, 5-bay, T-shaped structure. The 24' x 60' main block is augmented by an original 20' x 42' rear ell. Frame walls sheathed with plain lapped weatherboards rest on an infilled brick pier foundation. The open eaves feature exposed rafter ends embellished at the end with a cyma curve. This treatment is also echoed on both the shed-roofed front and side porches. The original slate roof is pierced at the ridge by two corbelled brick chimneys and two metal ventilators. The latter feature was in place by 1917. Window sashes remain in place though now protected by plywood. The door is historic if not original. The building is in fair condition. The interior retains its pressed metal ceiling.⁴

History: The barracks was built according to Quartermaster Generals Office Plan No. 1-246 at a cost of \$5,393. It was designed to accommodate 20 men.⁵

Previous Status: National Register Eligible (1987).

Recommended Status: Individually Eligible.

3) Comfort Station (c. 1931): This structure is located within a few yards of the waters of the Patapsco River. It is identified in the 1987 survey as *Building E*. This small, frame, 1-story building measures about 25' x 25'. The pyramidal roof is covered with a deteriorated asphalt shingle roof and pierced on all four sides by a small louvered eyebrow dormer. Walls are covered with German siding and rest on a poured slab foundation. Windows are boarded over. It is in fair and stable condition.

History: This is 1 of 4 surviving 1930s era park buildings. It is located near the original swimming area. It was abandoned, or possibly moved, after storms destroyed the beach and the swimming area was relocated to the north end of the park. It was put back into service in 1951 when this area was set aside as a segregated swimming area for African American patrons.

Previous Status: Locally Significant (1987).

Recommended Status: Individually Eligible.

4) Pavilion (built before 1937): This classic Adirondack style octagonal structure has a 65' diameter. It is identified in the 1987 survey as *Building F*. The roof's steeply pitched composite-shingle center section joins a low-pitch, shed-roofed perimeter area. The open structure is constructed of rustic cedar posts and up-braces. The base of the support posts rest on recently constructed poured concrete piers. It is in excellent condition and retains a very high degree of integrity.

History: The pavilion dates to the 1930s. It is discernible in a 1937 photograph. That image shows that intermediate rails were once located between the posts. The pavilion was damaged in Hurricane Isabel, but was nicely repaired and restored by Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks using cedar from the park.

Previous Status: Locally Significant (1987).

Recommended Status: Individually Eligible.

5) Hartshorne Battery (1899-1900): This is the park's oldest surviving structure. It is identified in the 1987 survey as *Building G*. The remains of the Hartshorne Battery is a roughly semi-circular poured concrete and concrete block mass, measuring at its maximum, 130' in length and 40' in width. The outer wall is 25' in height while the lower level where the guns were fixed stands at 15' above grade. The guns and mountings have been removed and their portals enclosed. The lower doors and window openings for the magazine and power house etc. are bricked in and the concrete stairs leading up to the gun level removed. The riverside earthen berm that camouflaged and protected the battery is also gone. The masonry exhibits numerous large and medium sized cracks that require attention. Metal corrosion jacking is one cause of this problem.

History: Battery Hartshorne is the larger of the two gun batteries that were erected at Fort Smallwood. Hartshorne was built between 1899 and 1900 and fitted with 2, 6-inch disappearing guns that were never used except for training. The guns were removed from Battery Hartshorne when the Fort was sold to Baltimore City. The companion battery, Battery Sykes, was demolished at that time. See the History section of this document for more details.

Previous Status: Determined Eligible (1987).

Recommended Status: Individually Eligible.

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6) Concession Stand (1930s): This small building is identified in the 1987 survey as *Building H*. It is a 1-story frame building measuring 20' x 10' at its maximum points and is constructed in the shape of an irregular octagon. The composition shingle-covered roof has widely overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends. There is no evidence of a former sun canopy such as that on the previously described concession stand. Upper walls are sheathed with board and batten siding while the lower sections feature square shingles. Windows were originally 6/1 wood sash openings. The doorway is located in the west wall and fitted with a modern make-shift plywood door. Door and window surrounds are plain and unmetered at the corners.

History: No records were found related to the construction of this building, but the form is typical of the type of structures seen in 1930s era photographs of Fort Smallwood. It was probably moved to this location in 1947 when the swimming area was relocated to this section of the park.

Previous Status: Locally Significant (1987).

Recommended Status: Individually Eligible.

7) Bathhouse/ Locker-Room Complex (1947): This three building complex is identified in the 1987 survey as *Building I*. The semi-connected group consists of 2 similar 1-story, concrete block buildings that measure about 25' x 15' feet. The low-pitch gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. Wood siding is applied in the gables under the cornice. This feature appears to be a later consideration. Louvered openings located in the upper part of the walls provide light and ventilation. A single door is fitted in the north gable end wall. The third building in the group is also a one-story concrete block structure with a low-pitch metal roof. This long building measures approximately 120' x 30'. It too is fitted with upper-level louvered openings. A large double opening fitted with modern plywood doors is located in the west wall. This building is now used as the park's maintenance facility.

History: There are no records related to the construction of this semi-connected building group, but it is believed to be the bath house and locker room complex whose construction is mentioned in a 1947 Baltimore Sun article. According to that source a new bath and locker facilities were erected in this general location in 1947 at a cost of \$41,900. The complex was constructed for the park's post-World War II reopening. New buildings were required because the swimming area had been relocated to this part of the park after the former beach area on the west side of the property had largely disappeared due to storm-related erosion. Concrete blocks were used because of post-War material restrictions. According to the Baltimore Sun article, the new bathhouse buildings were painted in "pastel shades."⁶

Previous Status: No Significance (1987).

Recommended Status: The building group is now more than 50 years of age and associated with the park's development. They are, however, undistinguished buildings and lack sufficient historical importance to warrant individual listing on the National Register at this time.

8) Septic Treatment Control Building (1950s): This small Flemish-bond brick building measures 12' x 6'. It has a hipped roof and boxed eaves. A boarded-over window is located in both the east and west walls. The west wall also contains the doorway. All openings featured soldier-course-brick flat-arches.

History: There are no records related to the construction of this small building. The 1950s building date is based on appearance. According to Fort Smallwood Park staff it originally housed the electrical controls for the adjacent septic system.

Previous Status: Not Evaluated.

Recommended Status: This small support structure lacks the sufficient historical importance necessary for National Register Listing.

9) Service Support Building (1950s): This small but robustly built 1-story, 8' x 10', common bond brick building has a hipped roof and boxed eaves. The metal door is historic and likely original. Windows located in the east and west wall are enclosed.

History: There are no records related to the construction or purpose of this small structure. Its location next to the water treatment facility suggests it was associated with that system, possibly housing control equipment. A retrofitted pipe inserted into a former window opening further supports a relationship between the two structures. Although it is brick the bond and window details are different from the Septic Treatment Control Building indicating they were built at different times.

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History (continued): The building is also located close to the barracks, which was later used as an administration building by park personnel. According to Park Ranger Matthew Grey, the brick building contains a safe, suggesting a subsequent use by park administrators or concession vendors for the short-term storage of money or other valuables.

Previous Status: Not Evaluated.

Recommended Status: This small support structure lacks the sufficient historical importance necessary for National Register Listing.

10: Water Treatment System (1931 and later): The historic component of the abandoned water treatment complex is a poured, reinforced concrete structure measuring about 6' in height and 4' in width and length. The corners are treated like obelisks, with fluting and a pyramidal cap. What appear to be access panel openings have been enclosed. It sits adjacent to the relatively modern metal and concrete water treatment and pumping facility.

History: A 1932 newspaper article reported that "provisions for water" had been made at Fort Smallwood.⁷ The Art Deco detailing of the concrete structure suggests it is part of the early water system. The rest of the abandoned system was added later.

Previous Status: Not Evaluated.

Recommended Status: This small support structure lacks the sufficient historical importance necessary for National Register Listing.

11) Restroom (1980s): This 1-story, stone-veneered building measures 20' x 10'. It has a gable-on-hip roof with wide overhanging boxed eaves. Small rectangular windows are inserted the upper part of the walls.

History: This is park's current public restroom facility.

Previous Status: Not Evaluated.

Recommended Status: Not Eligible due to age.

12) Park Office Trailer (1980s): This is a modern, metal-clad, rectangular, single-wide manufactured trailer.

History: Park administration offices are housed in this building.

Previous Status: Not Evaluated.

Recommended Status: Not Eligible due to age.

Buildings Lost Since 1987

1) Comfort Station (1930s): This small frame building was located at the southwest end of the park. The 1987 survey map identified it as *Building B*. It was very similar to the surviving Comfort Station E.

2) Bathhouse (1951) The bathhouse was identified on the 1987 survey as *Building D*. This was the bathing facility especially constructed for use by black patrons following a legal challenge from the Baltimore NAACP demanding African Americans use of the beach. The City, while forced by the courts to accommodate African American visitors, opted to create a "Jim Crow" facility on the west side of the park adjacent the river and reserve the Bay side area for white patrons.⁸ The City of Baltimore's efforts to build segregated facilities were delayed due to material restrictions imposed by National Production Authority which prohibited construction of buildings for amusement purposes.⁹ An interim policy of "Negro Days" drew protests from both races and was also successfully challenged in court by the NAACP. This important aspect of Fort Smallwood Park's history is detailed in the History Section of this form.

3 & 4) Comfort Stations (1930s): These two comfort stations were of similar design to Comfort Station E. They were not documented in the 1987 survey.

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History & Significance

Fort Smallwood Park is nationally significant for its association with nationally important military and social trends. The property's use, both as a military fortification and as a public park, illustrate broad patterns of national history.

Military Period (1896-1927)

Fort Smallwood Park is associated with a brief but significant era in United States military history. In 1896 the U.S. Government acquired by condemnation 100 acres of land at Rock Point belonging to Flavius Hancock.¹⁰ Here the United States Coastal Artillery Corps constructed a military garrison later named Fort Smallwood. Fort Smallwood is one of 4 Endicott Period (1890-1910) fortifications built on the Patapsco River at the close of the 19th century to protect Baltimore against naval attack. The facility was named in honor Major General William Smallwood, a Revolutionary War veteran and former Maryland Governor. The other Patapsco River Endicott facilities were Fort Howard, Fort Armistead, and Fort Carroll.ⁱⁱ Fort Smallwood was the companion fort to the much larger Fort Howard (Figure 1). Together they provided Baltimore's first line of defense.¹¹

The four Patapsco River strongholds were part of a comprehensive system of 29 installations built between 1885 and 1905 to protect the nation's strategic coastal areas from possible Spanish or German assault.^{iv} The terms "Endicott Period" and "Endicott System" are references to William C. Endicott who served as Secretary of War under President Grover Cleveland. A Board of Fortifications study commissioned under his tenure painted a grim picture of the nation's defenses, which were considered especially vulnerable to new naval artillery. Secretary Endicott spearheaded the effort to expand and modernize the nation's coastal and harbor defenses. The outcome was a massive construction effort resulting in the placement of modern weaponry at every major harbor in the United States.

Endicott Period facilities were typically not actual fortresses in the traditional sense, but a series of large caliber state-of-the-art gun batteries mounted on reinforced concrete bunkers. (This marked the first time in modern history that concrete was used in military defenses.¹²) Fort Smallwood was outfitted with two gun batteries. Battery Hartshorne, constructed 1899-1900, was fitted with a pair of 6" Watervliet Arsenal breech-loading rifles mounted on disappearing carriages. Construction on Battery Sykes commenced in 1903. This smaller battery was armed with a pair of 3" Bethlehem Iron rapid fire guns on pedestal mounts. Fort Smallwood was the least powerful of the 4 Patapsco River installations and a comparatively minor installation when compared to other Endicott Period installations.¹³

The peacetime garrison for Fort Smallwood consisted of 8 officers, 14 sergeants, 1 electrician, 63 privates and 3 musicians. The barracks building, constructed according to Quartermaster General's Office Plan No. 1-246, was designed to house 20 persons. When the facility was fully staffed presumably most soldiers were housed in temporary encampments. Rarely, however, was the garrison fully manned to even peace-time levels. After World War I only a small caretaker detachment was deployed at Fort Smallwood. It appears that Fort Smallwood was never physically developed to the extent planned. A 1904 site plan for Fort Smallwood shows the faint outline of numerous buildings that were never constructed (Figure 3).

By the 1920s the recently modern Endicott Period facilities were deemed obsolete and defense tactics shifted away from sea-based naval assault to anti-aircraft initiatives. In the 1920s many Endicott Period installations were declared surplus property and put up for sale. Baltimore City purchased Fort Smallwood in 1927 for \$50,000. Immediately prior to the sale the Fort's guns were dismounted and transported to Aberdeen Proving Ground and Battery Sykes was demolished. The City also acquired Fort Armistead and later Fort Howard, for use as parks.¹⁴

ⁱⁱ Fort Carroll was built in 1848, but was retrofitted during the Endicott Period (1885-1905).

ⁱⁱⁱ Fort Howard and Fort Armistead's gun batteries are more intact than those at Ft. Smallwood and therefore better examples of the type. Both Fort Howard and Fort Armistead are now public parks.

^{iv} The United States went to War with Spain in 1896.

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Military Period Significance

Fort Smallwood Park's two surviving military-era resources are historically significant and individually eligible for National Register listing under Criterion A for their association with an important period in military history and under Criterion C for embodying distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. Both resources were built according to military specifications and are representative of Endicott Period construction. The Barracks Building is an example of Quarter Master General Plan No 1-246. The Barracks, although in need of repair, remains largely unaltered. Battery Hartshorne is not as well preserved. The concrete emplacement survives, but magazine, plotting room and other openings, are sealed and the earthen berm, carriages and armaments removed. It is, however, clearly recognizable as the remains of an Endicott Period gun battery. Both resources are able to communicate their historic associations.

Fort Smallwood Park is not eligible for listing as a district for its military association due to loss of integrity. The majority of military-period buildings and structures have been destroyed. Military period resources that have been lost include Battery Sykes, a bathhouse, incinerator, coal house, the original wharf and 36' gauge railroad, search tower, windmill and well, power house and fire station (Figure 2). By way of comparison, the buildings and batteries at Fort Howard are better preserved and a better local example of Endicott Period construction. Endicott Period fortifications are already well represented on the National Register of Historic Places and at least one, New Jersey's Fort Hancock, is a further distinguished as National Historic Landmark.

Public Park Era (1927-present)

By the time Baltimore City acquired Fort Smallwood in 1927, the shores of the Chesapeake Bay were dotted with swimming beaches, waterfront amusement parks and residential summer communities. Recreation and, by extension, places dedicated to its pursuit were a nation-wide phenomena. Leisure time was no longer a privilege reserved for the wealthy and middle classes. Thanks in part due to social reformers, a large segment of the working class enjoyed weekend breaks and vacations.¹⁵ Urban residents and rural in-land dwellers travelled by trains, steamships and, in ever-increasing numbers, automobiles, to the sea or mountains in search of rest and and fresh air. Private developers rushed to meet the demand with resorts and amusement parks that catered to all tastes and income-levels, if not ethnic groups.^{vi}

Although Fort Smallwood Park is a suburban site, it is associated with several very important trends in urban planning. Nearly a century before Fort Smallwood became a park, physicians and social theorists promoted the importance of fresh air and recreation. Early landscape designers, including Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852) and Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1920) asserted that parks and open space were not just luxuries, but went so far as to say they were an essential component of a democratic society. Urban conditions, they argued, not only risked diseasing the body, but also the body politic and could threaten the Republic. Increased acceptance on the part of public officials that open space was necessary for a healthful and morally upstanding citizenry inspired many large cities to create public parks. The largest and most famous example of a park built specifically for the public's benefit is New York's Central Park, which was designed by preeminent landscape designer, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.¹⁶

By the closing decades of the 19th century many public park advocates, including Olmsted, had teamed with proponents of a new planning philosophy called the City Beautiful Movement. City Beautiful supporters held that green space represented only a partial solution to urban woes. As the name suggests, City Beautiful proponents maintained that all aspects of a city should be visually pleasing. According to the Movement's reform-minded supporters, attractive buildings, boulevards and landscapes would inspire inhabitants to moral and civic virtue. Inevitably, City Beautiful initiatives failed to have much impact on citizen behavior, but for the decades the philosophy held sway it informed the physical development (or redevelopment) of many large towns and cities including, most notably, Washington, DC.¹⁷

To link a small suburban swimming beach with Central Park and grandiose City Beautiful cityscapes may seem an exaggeration, but Baltimore City purchased Fort Smallwood for use as a public park based on the recommendation of no less

^v Prior to the Civil Rights Movement, the overwhelming majority of resorts were open only to white "gentile" patrons.

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of a City Beautiful advocate than Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Baltimore's stated reason for the purchase clearly echoed City Beautiful philosophy. Specifically because, as it was reported in the Baltimore Sun, "well-ordered breathing spots are essential to the well-being and happiness of the people of Baltimore."¹⁸ It is this distinction that makes Fort Smallwood Park an exception among other period resorts where profit, not public welfare, was the motivating factor.¹⁹ Fort Smallwood Park fulfilled a need. Maryland's state park system was not created until 1941 meaning that in 1927 there were few free or low-cost excursion destinations available to the public.

Baltimore City's purchase of Fort Smallwood was not an isolated action, but rather part of a comprehensive plan to create a City-wide network of parks, greenspace and natural areas. The Municipal Art Society, Baltimore's strongest proponent of the City Beautiful philosophy, commissioned the renowned Massachusetts-based Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects (OBLA), then headed by Frederick law Olmsted's son and stepson, to prepare the plan. The document, titled *Report Upon the Development of Public Grounds for Greater Baltimore*, was completed in 1904, which was also the same year as the devastating Great Fire of Baltimore. OBLA, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. in particular, continued their association with Baltimore. Olmsted was the major figure in planning the reconstruction of post-fire Baltimore and also instrumental in establishing the City's planning department.²⁰ In 1926 OBLA submitted a second report, this time to the City Plan Committee. It is that later document that specifically recommended acquiring Fort Smallwood, along with several other water-side locations, for use as public parks.²¹ This general planning document did not contain site-specific guidelines on the landscaping or organization of the proposed parks.

Fort Smallwood Park opened to visitors in 1929. There were very few, perhaps no, provisions for visitors the first season due to a lack of funds. Attendance was also depressed because the park was not serviced by public transportation. The beach-front site was less than 10 miles away from Baltimore City, but by automobile the trip took nearly an hour. In the absence of bathhouses and lockers, most visitors were motorists who came only to picnic or fish. Peak one-day attendance over the Fourth of July weekend of 1931 was estimated at 3,210 persons. In 1931 the City committed to a series of improvements that would allow the beach to accommodate up to 25,000 daily visitors. It is not known if Fort Smallwood's attendance reached the anticipated daily level, but newspaper articles make it clear that the number of visitors increased dramatically in 1931 as a result of steamship service from Baltimore's Light Street Pier to Fort Smallwood. More than 90,000 patrons visited the park during the 1932 summer season.²²

Facilities in place for the 1931 season included a fishing pier, concession stands, numerous bath houses, locker buildings, changing stalls as well as provisions for water and electricity. A bandstand, additional concession buildings, pavilions, cabanas, benches and gazebos were in place before 1937. Ball courts, horse pits, play grounds and 300 picnic tables were also added.²³ No building or maintenance records for Fort Smallwood Park could be located for this study, but based upon newspaper images and private photographs it is safe to say that Concession Stands (A and H), Comfort Station (E) and the Pavilion (F) were standing by 1937. Those same sources, as well as Isabelle Shipley Cunningham's book about the Pasadena, Maryland peninsula, indicate that perhaps dozens of other small buildings and structures have since been lost.^{24 25}

Fort Smallwood Park proved to be a popular day-trip destination, but due to chronic funding issues the public park failed to provide the quality and quantity of amenities and amusement offered by private concerns. Bay Shore Park, located on the north bank of the Patapsco, almost directly opposite Fort Smallwood Park, provided strong competition. Furthermore, the devastating hurricane of 1933 caused extensive damage to park structures, knocked down trees and eroded large swaths of beach. With the outbreak of World War II a sharp drop in attendance, combined with war-time gas rationing, resulted in the park being closed until 1947.²⁶

The park reopened in the summer of 1947 with \$29,000 worth of new and refurbished facilities in place. New structures included the concrete block Bathhouse and Locker complex (I). The magazine rooms of the Hartshorne Battery were adapted for the sale of concessions. The original swimming area along the west side of the park was abandoned due to erosion in favor of an area at the north end of the park near the repurposed gun battery.²⁷ Structures, probably including Concession Stand (H), were relocated from the west side of the park to the new north-side new swimming area. More than 8,000 patrons visited Fort Smallwood on the first day of the 1947 season.²⁸

Fort Smallwood Park was part of larger national trend in recreation and leisure. Public and private recreation facilities flourished throughout the country in the years immediately following World War II. The growth in the size and diversity of the

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 9

Ft. Smallwood (AA-~~848~~ 848)

vacationing public, combined with the increased ease of travel, made both long vacations and short pleasure trips a common place experience for an unprecedentedly large segment of the population. The vacationing public now included an ever increasing number of working- and middle-class African Americans.²⁹

African Americans had been part of the vacationing public for decades. Anne Arundel County's Highland Beach was an upper-class African-American summer community. Founded in 1893 by Charles Douglas, the son of famous abolitionists Frederick Douglas, Highland Beach principally attracted affluent black Washingtonians. Brown's Grove, located about 2 miles west of Fort Smallwood, was a black-owned resort that catered to Baltimore residents. It had the distinction of being the only African American resort to have its own steamship service.³⁰ Carr's Beach and Sparrows Beach were also popular local African American beaches. In Jim Crow America, however, most public beaches and swimming pools remained restricted; operating either for the benefit of a white-only or a strictly segregated clientele. These policies Fort Smallwood Park's white-only policy became part of a federal court case that was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On at least two occasions during the summer of 1950 African American families were denied access to the beach and facilities at Fort Smallwood, including on July 3rd when Robert M. Dawson, Jr. and his family were ordered out of the water by park authorities. Dawson and others filed suit in Federal Court demanding African Americans be allowed access to Fort Smallwood's beach.³¹ The Court ordered Baltimore City allow African American's use of Fort Smallwood's swimming facilities. In response in 1951-52 Baltimore City constructed a separate swimming area and buildings for use by black patrons. The former swimming area on the west side of the park that had been abandoned following a hurricane was repaired and a new bathhouse and locker room were constructed and in service for the 1952 season. The Black community objected to the segregated facility and another legal challenge mounted. (Unfortunately, that controversial Civil Rights-era building has since been destroyed.)

African American organizations condemned the new segregated facilities and urged patrons to boycott Fort Smallwood. On opening day only 3 patrons used the "negro beach" and only a few more were at the "white beach." The Baltimore City Park Board dismissed the action and attributed the paltry attendance numbers to bad weather and not because of the boycott.³² Attendance levels plummeted during the second half of the 1950s. Racial issues, discontinuation of public transportation and the opening of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (which made competing Eastern Shore beaches more accessible) were all cited as reasons for the park's precipitous decline in patronage.³³

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons (NAACP) took up the issue and combined the Fort Smallwood case with two other similar suits and challenged for full and equal access to not only Fort Smallwood, but Sandy Point State Park and all other beaches, pools and recreational facilities in Maryland. The plaintiffs for the combined cases argued that racial segregation of bathing beaches, bathhouses and swimming pools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. In 1954 the Court found in favor of the plaintiffs and ordered Maryland's public beaches and pools desegregated. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case, which in effect upheld the lower Courts' decision, and meant in practice that "Separate but Equal" was unconstitutional not only in the context of schools, but all public facilities. As a side note, the NAACP's legal team in these cases included up-and-coming lawyer and future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.³⁴

Fort Smallwood Park, along with Maryland's other swimming facilities and beaches, were desegregated, but by this time the park's attendance was down significantly and the facility not well maintained. Between 1958 and 1970 Baltimore City made no capital expenditures at Fort Smallwood.³⁵ Numerous plans for its re-use and redevelopment failed to materialize while neglect, vandalism and storm damage continued to take their toll on the buildings and landscape. In 2006 Anne Arundel County leased the property and incorporated the nearly derelict property into their County park system. Anne Arundel County's Department of Recreation and Parks has since cleaned up and secured the property, reconstructed the fishing pier, restored the picnic pavilion and stabilized other historic buildings, removed dead trees and are planning for the repair and restoration of other park resources.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 10

Ft. Smallwood (AA-~~848~~ 898)

Park Era Significance

Fort Smallwood Park has clear and direct association with important trends in Recreation, Community Planning & Development, and Social History. Fort Smallwood Park was purchased in 1927 to provide Baltimore City residents with free or low-cost access to fresh air and recreation. The park represents Baltimore City planners' embrace of City Beautiful principals and the partial fulfillment of the Olmsted Brothers' plan for Baltimore's public spaces. Despite their rather undistinguished appearance (the Adirondack style pavilion and Art Deco influenced water treatment facility represent the only resources with characteristics of a distinct style), the park-era buildings and structures are significant as rare surviving examples of a once common class of resources. The number of park buildings lost since 1987—most especially the Civil Rights era bathhouse--highlights this fragility.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 11

Ft. Smallwood (AA-848) 848

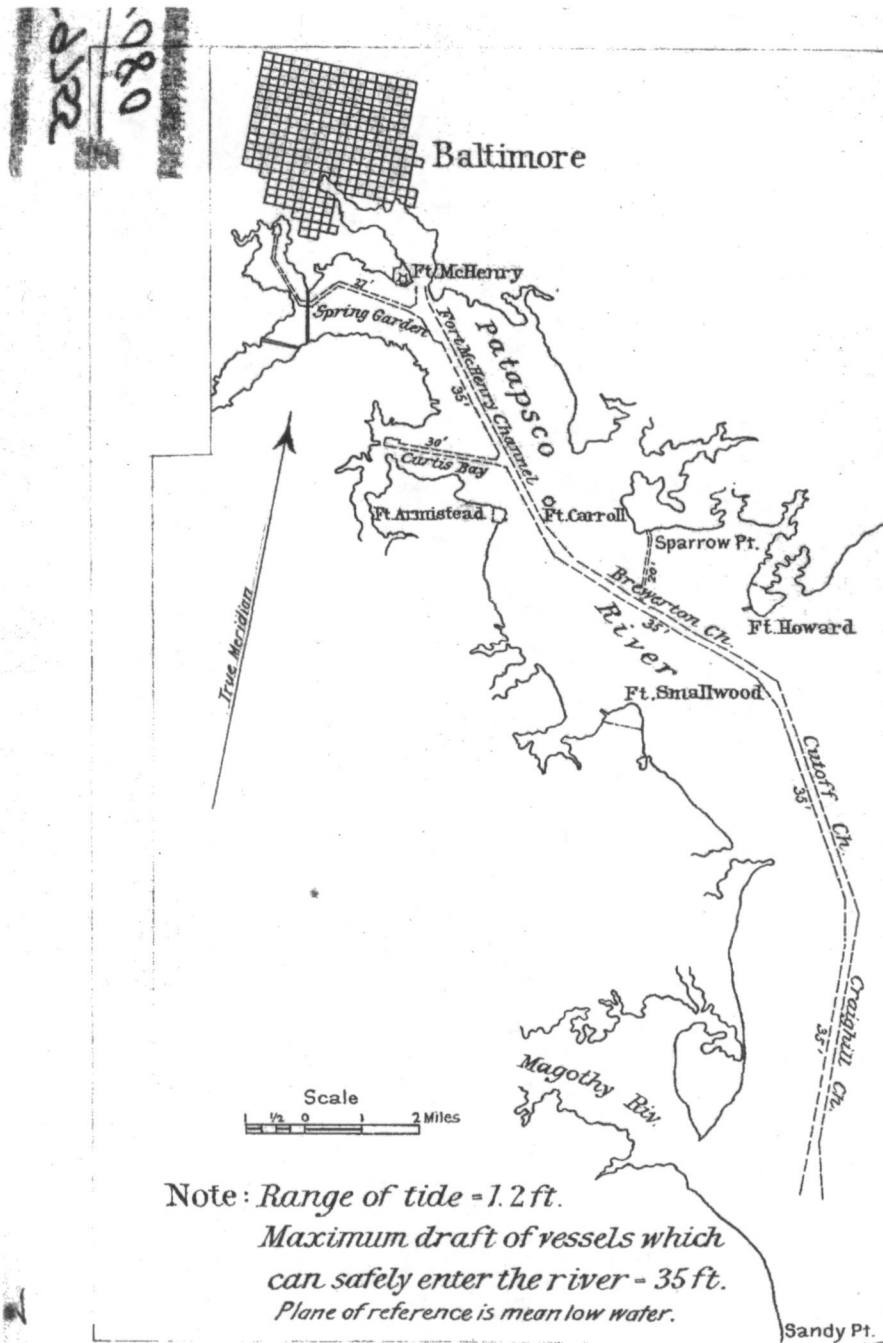


Figure 1: Map showing location of defenses of Baltimore, MD (1896).

Source: National Archives Records Administration, Fortifications File Drawer 51, Sheet 62.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 12

Ft. Smallwood (AA-848 898)

ION OF: MAR. 14, 1916.
SIONS: FEB. 28, 1919; MAR. 21, 1921.

SERIAL NUMBER

CONFIDENTIAL.

RANGE FINDER

BALTIMORE HARBOR, MD.

FORT SMALLWOOD

ROCK POINT.

500' 0 500' 1000'

Plane of reference is mean low water.

Small caretaking detachment
only at this post.

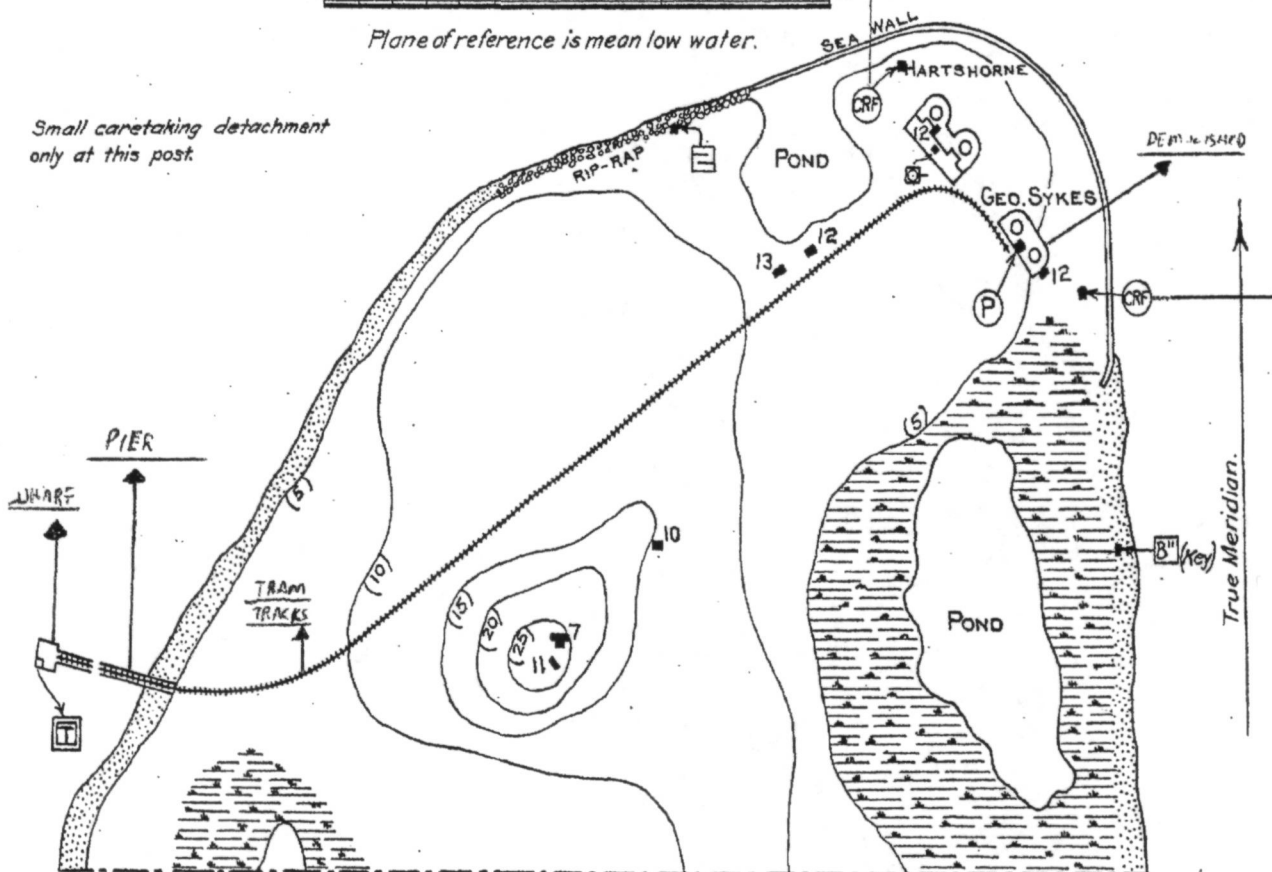


Figure 2: *Major Features of Fort Smallwood, 1921.* Reproduced from "Fort Smallwood's Military Mission" in Anne Arundel County History Notes, Vol. XXV (April 1994). Source of original image is unknown. The barracks building (#7) and the concrete emplacement of Battery Hartshorne (#12) are the only resources that survive from Fort Smallwood. A new wharf and pier are located in the same approximately location as that shown above.

Key

- T= tide station
- CRF= coincidence range finder
- P= plotting room
- B= secondary battery station
- 7= barracks
- 10= windmill and well
- 11= coal shed
- 12= fire control station
- 13= power house

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 13

Ft. Smallwood (AA-848) 898

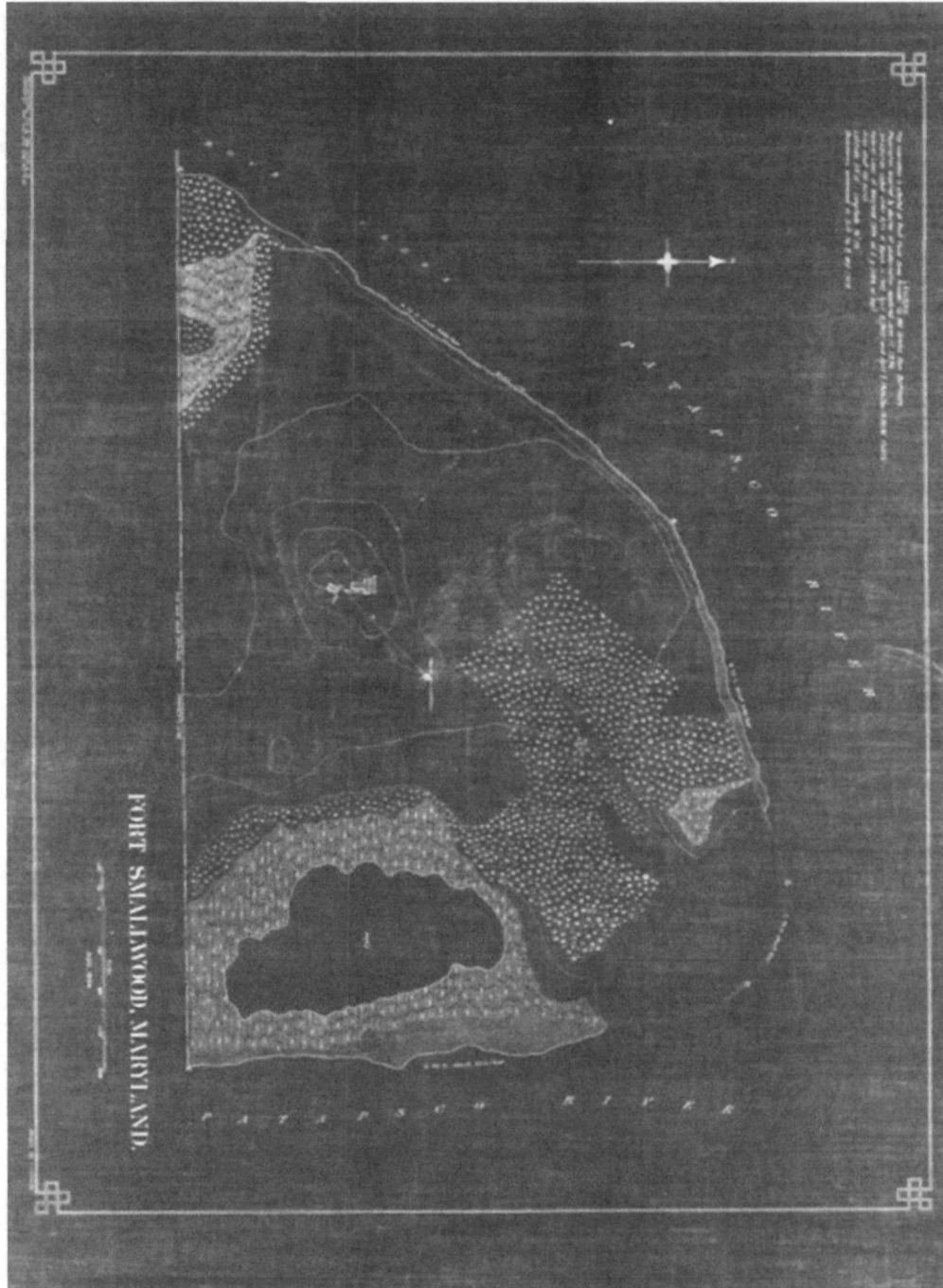


Figure 3: *Topographical Map of Fort Smallwood*, 1921. The faint outline of buildings north of the Barracks Building suggests plans for buildings that were not constructed. Oddly, the two gun batteries are faintly delineated as well.
Source: National Archives Records Administration, Record Group 77.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 14

Ft. Smallwood (AA-848) 898

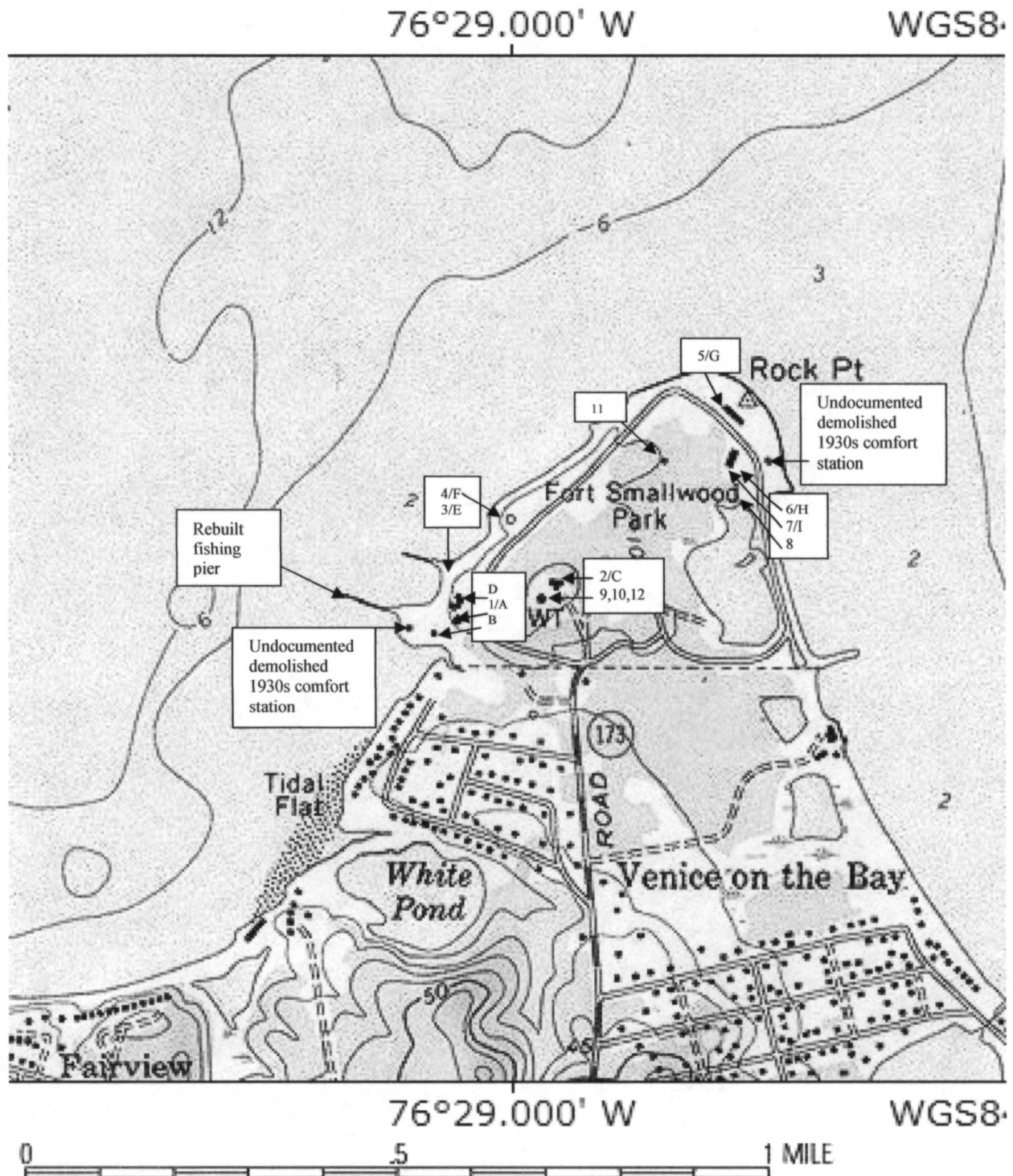


Figure 4: Building location map. Buildings B and D, along with two previously undocumented 1930s-era comfort stations, have been demolished since the 1987 survey. Numbers correspond to building descriptions in this report, while letters represent buildings identified in the 1987 documentation.

Source: USGS Sparrows Point Quad 7.5' series enlarged to 200%. Reprinted by TOPO!

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 15

Ft. Smallwood (AA-848) 898

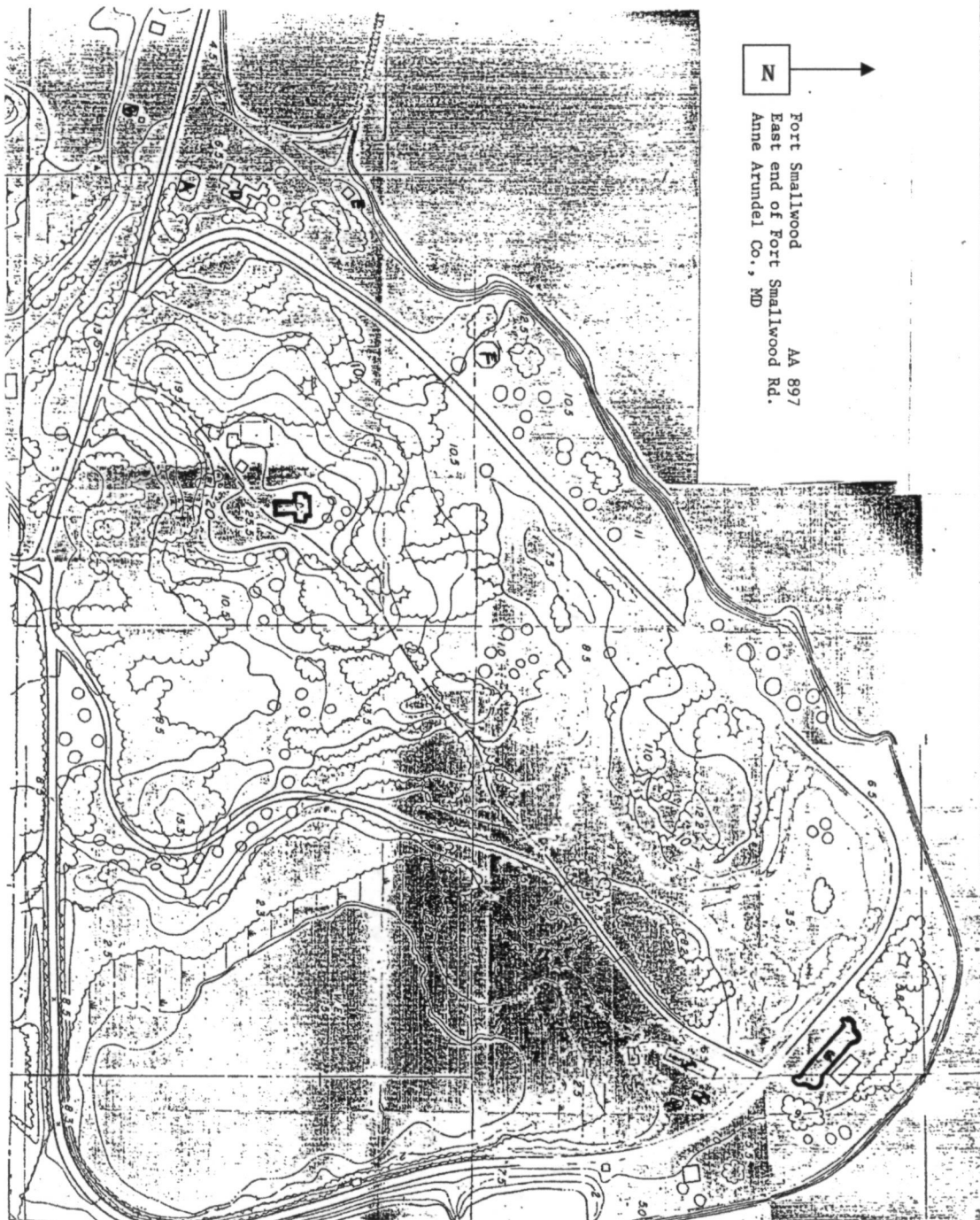


Figure 5: Copy of resource location map from 1987 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties survey of Fort Smallwood (AA-898). On file with the Maryland Historical Trust.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 16

Ft. Smallwood (AA-848) 898

Correspondence:



William Donald Schaefer
Governor

Jacqueline H. Rogers
Secretary, DHCD

December 4, 1987

Ms. Myra Brosius
Planning Commission
Department of Planning
8th Floor
222 E. Saratoga Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Ft. Smallwood Park

Dear Ms. Brosius:

Thank you for your letter of November 19, 1987 concerning the NR-eligibility of the above-referenced park.

Our office concurs with the following proposed levels of significance:

- Fort & Barracks - National Register Eligible
- Concession stands (A & H), Comfort Stations (B & E) and the Pavillion (F) - Local Significance
- Remaining Structures - No Significance.

Your cooperation in this matter has been appreciated. Please keep us informed of your plans for this area.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Edwards
Deputy Director-
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

MRE/AHL/eib

cc: Mr. Harrison B. Wetherill, Jr.
Mr. Dean Johnson
Ms. Donna Ware ✓
Mr. Ken Short
Ms. Mary G. Dolan


Department of Housing and Community Development
Shaw House, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 974-4450, 757-9000
Temporary Address: Arnold Village Professional Center, 1517 Ritchie Highway, Arnold, Maryland 21012

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 17

Ft. Smallwood (AA-848) 898)

Correspondence:

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Kenneth M. Short Historic Preservation Analyst	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), 118 N. Howard St., Room 606		
	SUBJECT	Fort Smallwood Park		

TO

Ms. Mary G. Dolan, Chief
Coastal Resources and Environmental Planning
Department of Planning
222 East Saratoga Street
8th Floor

DATE:
17 November 1987

The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation has reviewed Fort Smallwood Park in Anne Arundel County and has determined that the fort and barracks (see enclosed form, AA 897) are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, we have found that the following park structures (see enclosed form AA 898) are of local historic and architectural significance: the concession stands (A and H), the comfort stations (B and E), and the pavilion (F).

Kenneth M. Short

Kenneth M. Short
Historic Preservation Analyst

KMS/kms

Attachments

cc. Al Luckenbach
Myra Brosius
Mensch
Donna Ware

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 18

Ft. Smallwood (AA-848) 898

Prepared by: Sherri Marsh Johns

April 2, 2012;
Date Prepared: Revised December 2012

Selected Bibliography

Aron, Cindy S. *Working at Play: A History of Vacations in the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Cole, Merle T. "Fort Smallwood's Military Mission," *Anne Arundel County History Notes* Vol. XXV (1994): 1, 8-10.

Cunningham, Isabel Shipley. *Between Two Rivers: A Panoramic View of the Pasadena Peninsula*. Pasadena: Pasadena Business Association, 1999.

Kessler, Harry and David Zang. *The Play Life of a City: Baltimore's Recreation and Parks, 1900-1955*. Baltimore: Baltimore City Life Museums, 1989.

Kostof, Spiro. *The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History*. Boston: Bulfinch Press, 1991.

Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects. *Report Upon the Development of Public Grounds for Greater Baltimore*. Baltimore: Municipal Art Society of Baltimore City, 1904.

Schuyler, David. *The New Urban Landscape: The Redefinition of City Form in Nineteenth-Century America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986.

Wilson, William H. *The City Beautiful Movement*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989.

Endnotes:

¹ *Lonesome et al., v. Maxwell et al. Dawson et al. v. Mayor & City Council of Baltimore et al. Issacs et al. v. Mayor & City Council of Baltimore et al.* United States District Court, District of Maryland, 123 F. Supp. 193 (D.Md. 07/27/1954)

² Fort Smallwood to Be Open Today, Bathing Facilities At Resort However Will Not Be Ready, *The Sun* (1837-1986); May 1, 1932; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Baltimore Sun, The (1837-1986).

³ Fort Smallwood Park Opens May 1: Boat Expected To Be Running By Last Of Month, *The Sun* (1837-1986); Apr 19, 1931; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Baltimore Sun, The (1837-1986).

⁴ Barrack for 20 men, 1899. Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts file, National Archives and Records Administration.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Fort Smallwood Beach Opens in a Few Days, *The Evening Sun*; June 24, 1947 (Enoch Pratt Library Vertical File, Fort Smallwood).

⁷ Fort Smallwood to Be Open Today, Bathing Facilities At Resort However Will Not Be Ready.

⁸ Divided Beach Bathing Policy at Smallwood: Board to Build Facilities for Negroes, *The Sun* (1837-1986); Jan 27, 1952; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Baltimore Sun, The (1837-1986).

⁹ Fort Smallwood Bathing Beach Policy Decried, Negro Group Charges Violation Of Rights, *The Sun* (1837-1986); May 26, 1951; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Baltimore Sun, The (1837-1986).

¹⁰ Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber GW 3, Folio 316 (1896).

¹¹ LTC Merle T. Cole. "Fort Smallwood's Military Mission," *Anne Arundel County History Notes* Vol. XXV (1994):3, 6-11.

¹² The Endicott Era Defenses, National Park Service website viewed at
<<http://www.nps.gov/gate/historyculture/endicottdefenses.htm>>

¹³ Mark Berhow, ed. *American Seacoast Defenses: A Reference Guide*, 2nd ed. (McLean :Coastal Defense Study Group Press, 2004), 202-226.

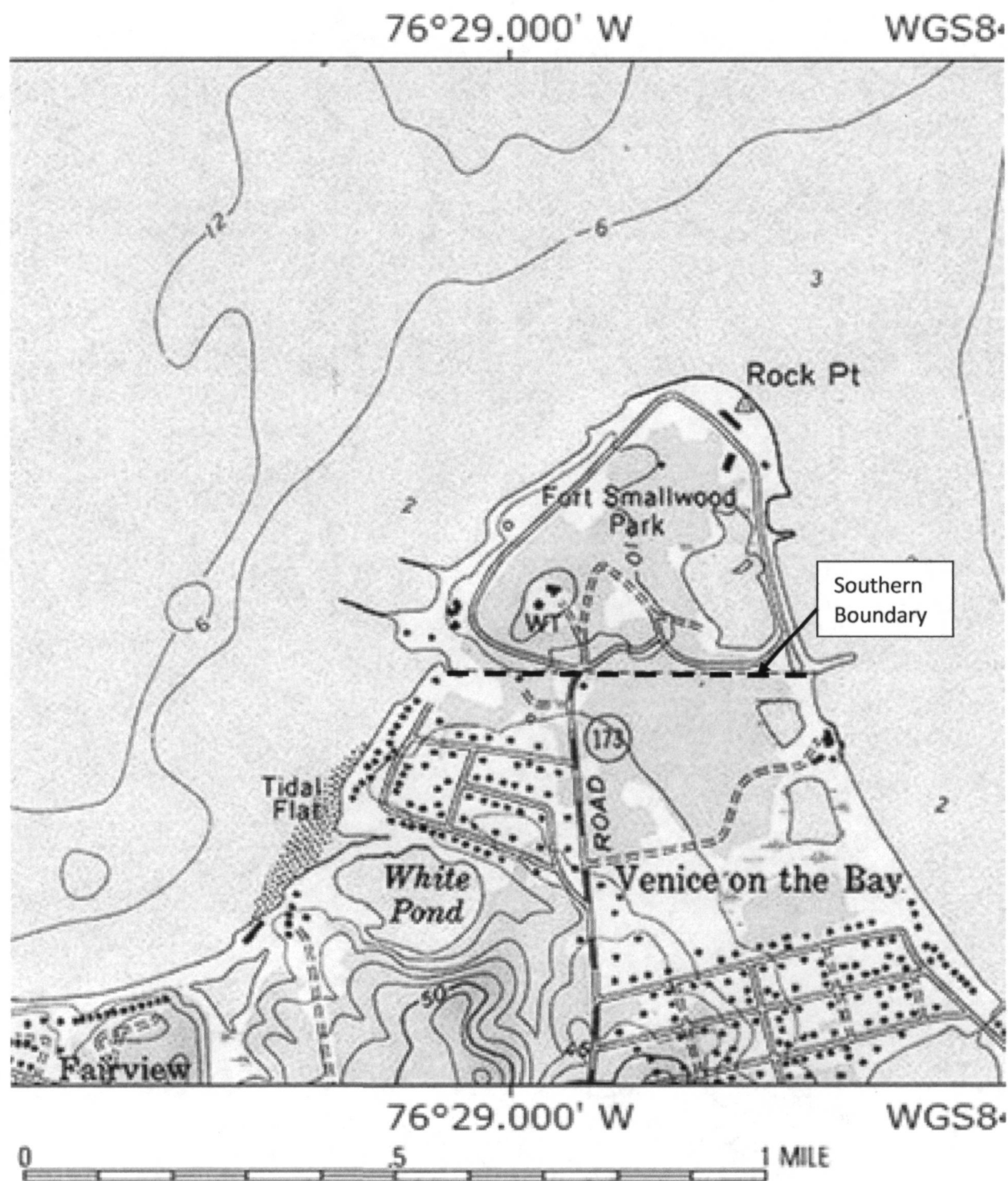
¹⁴ Cole, 9.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 19

Ft. Smallwood (AA-848) 898

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- ¹⁵ David Schuyler. *The New Urban Landscape: The Redefinition of City Form in Nineteenth-Century America*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), 151.
- ¹⁶ Schuyler, 7.
- ¹⁷ Spiro Kostof. *The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History*. (Boston: Bulfinch Press, 1991), 209-211.
- ¹⁸ Park Board to Buy Fort Smallwood *The Sun* (1837-1986); December 30, 1926; ProQuest Historical newspapers: Baltimore Sun, The (1837-1986)
- ¹⁹ Isabel Shipley Cunningham. *Between Two Rivers: A Panoramic View of the Pasadena Peninsula* (Pasadena: Pasadena Business Association, 1999), 101-108.
- ²⁰ Harry Kessler and David Zang, *The Play Life of a City: Baltimore's Recreation and Parks, 1900-1955* (Baltimore: Baltimore City Life Museums, 1982) ch 2.
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Fort Smallwood Ferry Pact Made: Park Board Head Authorized To Sign Agreement, *The Sun* (1837-1986); April 19, 1931; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Baltimore Sun, The (1837-1986).
- ²³ Fort Smallwood Park Opens May 1st.
- ²⁴ Louis Freeman Declares Fort Smallwood Lacks Facilities: Demands First Aid Service at Park, *The Sun* July 5, 1938 (Enoch Pratt Vertical Files, File Fort Smallwood).
- ²⁵ Cunningham, 101-108.
- ²⁶ Fort Smallwood Will Open Tomorrow with New Facilities, *The Sun* (1837-1986); Jun 28, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Baltimore Sun, The (1837-1986).
- ²⁷ The Water Was Fine at the Fort Smallwood Beach, *The Sun* (1837-1986); Aug 28, 1946; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Baltimore Sun, The (1837-1986).
- ²⁸ Fort Smallwood Will Open Tomorrow with New Facilities.
- ²⁹ Cindy Aron, *Working at Play: A History of Vacations in the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 207.
- ³⁰ Cunningham, 127.
- ³¹ Segregation Suit Filed, *The Sun*, October 6, 1950 (Enoch Pratt Vertical Files, File Fort Smallwood).
- ³² Fort Smallwood Boycott Held Ineffective, *The Baltimore Evening Sun*; June 5, 1952 (Enoch Pratt Vertical Files, File Fort Smallwood).
- ³³ Desert-ed Sands: Fort Smallwood Resort Opens, But Few Take Advantage, *The Baltimore Evening Sun*; July 28, 1953 (Enoch Pratt Vertical Files, File Fort Smallwood).
- ³⁴ Battle for the Beaches. *Afro-American Newspaper, Supplement*, Signature Series II: The Battle for Equal Access. 2007): 14.
- ³⁵ Commission on Governmental Efficacy & Economy, *Fort Smallwood State Park*, Bulletin No. 720; March, 1970 (Enoch Pratt Vertical Files, File Fort Smallwood).



Fort Smallwood Park is the entire area north of the black dashed dividing line.

USGS Sparrows Point Quad 7.5' series enlarged to 200%. Reprinted by TOPO!

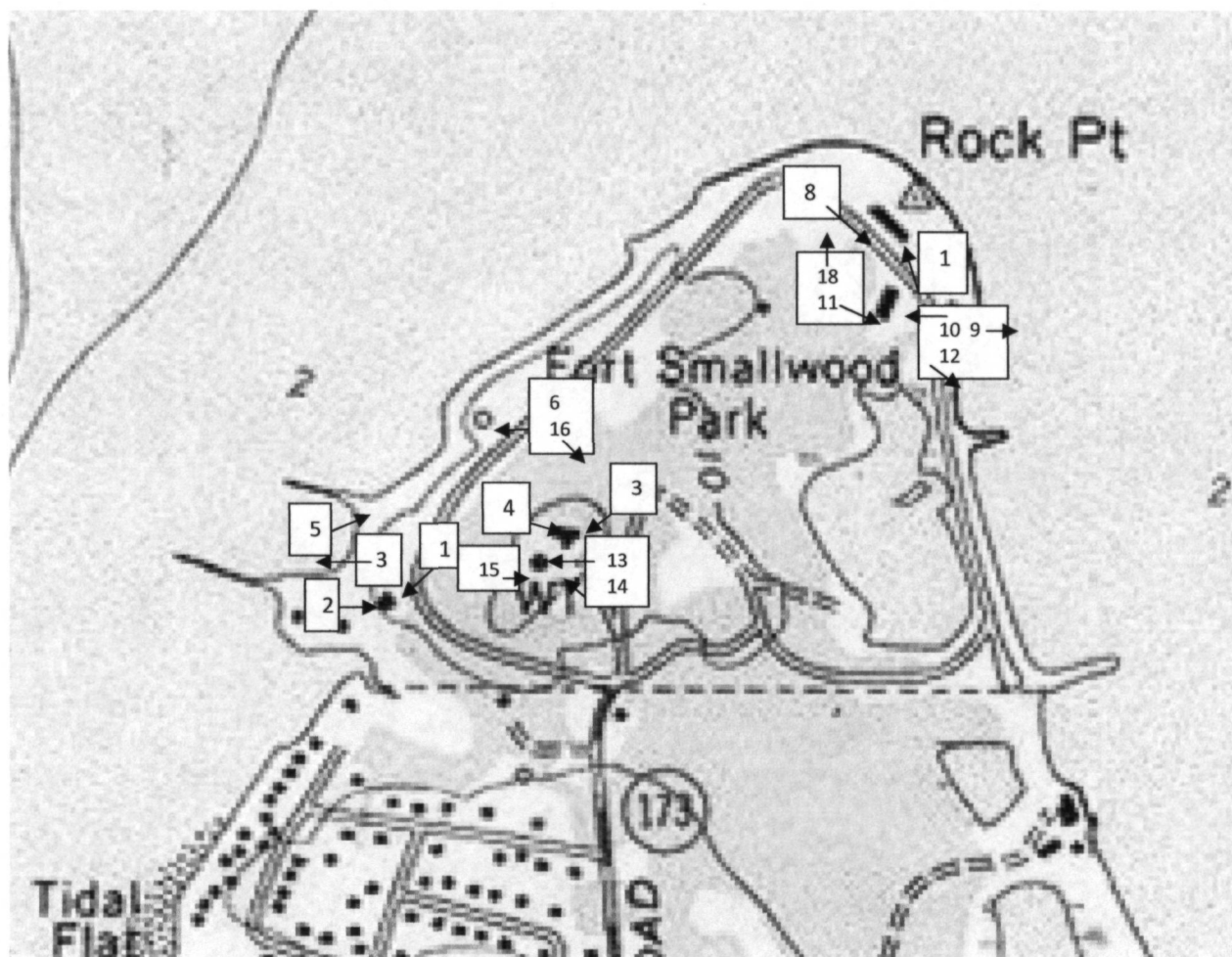
Photo Log

Fort Smallwood AA-0898

Photographs Taken April, 2012

Printed by Fromex on Fuji Frontier laser printer on professional grade Ilford black and white paper and processed with true silver gelatin black and white chemistry.

1. Concession Stand, camera facing southeast; AA-0898_2012_04_01_01
2. Concession Stand, camera facing west; AA-0898_2012_04_01_02
3. Barracks, camera facing southwest; AA-0898_2012_04_01_03
4. Barracks, camera facing east; AA-0898_2012_04_01_04
5. Comfort Station, camera facing northwest; AA-0898_2012_04_01_05
6. Pavilion, camera facing west; AA-0898_2012_04_01_06
7. Hartshorne Battery, camera facing north; AA-0898_2012_04_01_07
8. Hartshorne Battery and landscape, camera facing southeast; AA-0898_2012_04_01_08
9. Small Concession Stand and Bathhouse & Locker Room complex, camera facing northwest;
AA-0898_2012_04_01_10
10. Small Concession Stand, camera facing southeast; AA-0898_2012_04_01_11
11. Bathhouse & Locker Room complex, camera facing south; AA-0898_2012_04_01_12
12. Septic Treatment System, camera facing east; AA-0898_2012_04_01_13
13. Service Support Building, camera facing west; AA-0898_2012_04_01_14
14. Service Support Building and Trailer with Barracks in the distance, camera facing north;
AA-0898_2012_04_01_15
15. Water Treatment Facility, camera facing south; AA-0898_2012_04_01_16
16. Restroom, Camera facing east; AA-0898_2012_04_01_17
17. Beach and Fishing Pier, camera facing west; AA-0898_2012_04_01_18.
18. Landscape and Hartshorne Battery, camera facing north; AA-0898_2012_04_01_09



Photograph Location Key.

Map Source: USGS Sparrows Point Quad excerpt.



AA-898

Fort Smallwood Park

Anne Arundel CO., MD

3327426, Fort Smallwood 1.881

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

(ILFORD), (PrimeX True B&W), 01/11/13

Digital master at SHPO AA-0898-2012-04-01

Concession Stand

Camera facing SW

1 of 18



AA-898
Fort Smallwood Park
Anne Arundel Co., MD

3827426, Fort Smallwood 2_211

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

Digital (ILFORD), (Fronex True B&W), 81/11/13
MASTER at SHPD AA-0898-2012-04-01-02

Concession Stand

Camera facing west

2 of 18



AA-898

Fort Smallwood Park

Anne Arundel CO., MD

3827426, Fort Smallwood 3-812

by S. MARGH Johns

April 2012

Digital (ILFORD), (Fronex True B&W), 81/11/13

master at SHPO AA-0898-2012-04-01-03

BARRACKS

CAMERA FACING SW

3 of 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood Park

Anne Arundel Co, MD

3827426, Fort Smallwood 4-813

by S. marsh Johns

April 2012

<ILFORD>, <Froese True B&W>, 81/11/13

Digital master at SHPO AA-0898-2012-04-01-04

BARRACKS

Camera facing east

4 of 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood PARK

Anne Arundel Co. MD
3027425, Fort Smallwood E-014

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

(ILFORD), (Fronex True B&W), 01/11/13

Digital MASTER at SHPO AA-0898-2012-04-01
-05

CONCESSION STAND

CAMERA FACING NW

5 of 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood Park

Anne Arundel Co., MD

3027420, Fort Smallwood 6-815

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

<ILFORD>, <Promex True B&W>, 01/11/12

Digital MASTE R at SHPO AA-0898-2012-
04-01-06

PAVILLION

Camera facing West

6 of 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood Park

Anne Arundel Co., MD

3027426, Fort Smallwood 7-B16

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

Digital (ILFORD), (Fronex Tri-X B&W), 01/11/13
MASTER at SHPO AA-0898-2012
-04-01-07

HARTSHORNE Battery

Camera facing North

7 of 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood Park

Anne Arundel Co., MD

3827426, Fort Smallwood 0-017

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

Digital MASTER at SHPO

AA-0898-2012-
04-01-08

HARTSHORNE Battery + Landscape

CAMERA facing southeast

8 of 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel Co. Md.
by S. MARSH Johns

3827420, Fort Smallwood 18-882

April 2012

Digital MASTER at SHPU AA-0898-2012
(ILFORD), (Fronex True B&W), 81/11/13 04-01-09

Small Concession stand And
Locker Room complex

Camera facing NW

9 of 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood Park

Anne Arundel Co., MD

3827426, Fort Smallwood 11-2003

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

Digital MASTER @ SHPO

AA-0898-2012

11/13-04-01-10

Small Concession STAND

CAMERA facing SE

10 of 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood Park

Anne Arundel Co., MD

3827426, Fort Smallwood 12-084

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

Digital MASTER at SHPO (ILFORD), (From: True 30W), 01/11/13 AA-0898-2013
-04-01-11

Bathhouse And Locker Room complex

Camera facing NW

11 07 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood Park

Anne Arundel CO, MD

3827426, Fort Smallwood 13-025

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

AA-0898-2012

Digital Master at SHPD

04-01-12

Septic Treatment system

Camera facing EAST

12 of 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood Park

Anne Arundel Co., MD

3527420, Fort Smallwood 14-898

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

Digital Master at SHPO

AA-0898-2012

04-01-13

Services Support Building

CAMERA FACING West

13 of 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood PARK

Anne Arundel Co, MD

3827426, Fort Smallwood 15-887

by S. MARSH Johns

APRIL 2012

AA-0898-2012-04-01-14

Dig, in MASTER at SHPO

Services Support Bldg, trailer and

Barracks in distance

camera facing north

14 of 18



AA-898

Ft. Smallwood Park

Anne Arundel Co., MD

3327426, Fort Smallwood 10-888

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

AA-0898-2012-
04-01-15

Digital MASTER at SHPO
Water Treatment Facility

camera facing south

15 of 18



AA-898

Ft. SMALLWOOD PARK

Anne Arundel CO., MD

3327426, Fort Smallwood 17-889

by S. MARSH Johns

April 2012

Digital MASTER at ~~MIT~~ SHPO

Restroom AA-898-20012-04.01-1 to

Camera facing east

16 of 18



AA-898

Ft. SMALLWOOD PARK

Anne Arundel CO., MD

3327426, Fort Smallwood 18-012

by S. MARSH Johns

APRIL 2012

(ILFORD), (Promex True B&W), 81/11/13

Digital MASTER at SHPO

AA-0898-2012-04-01-17

Beach And Fishing Pier

Camera facing west

17 of 18



AA-898

Ft. SMALLWOOD PARK

Anne Arundel Co, MD

3827426, Fort Smallwood S.B.13

by S. MART JohnS

April 2012

(ILFORD), (Promex True B&W), B1/11/13

Digital MASTER at SHPO

AA-0898-2012-04-01-18

LANDSCAPE AND HARTSHORNE BATTERY

CAMERA facing NORTH

18 of 18

BALTIMORE CITY--COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR: 13
AREA: Fort Smallwood Park

SURVEY NO.: AA 898
MAGI NO.: 0208983807



ADDRESS: East end of Fort Smallwood Road, Anne Arundel Co.
CURRENT NAME: Fort Smallwood Park

BLOCK:	LOT:	LOT SIZE:
HEIGHT:		MATERIALS:
CONDITION: Good		OWNER: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City
		ADDRESS:
USE: Recreation		ACCESSIBLE: Yes; unrestricted
DESIGNATION:		LIBER/FOLIO: Liber F85 No.19, Folio 342

HISTORIC NAME: Fort Smallwood Park
DATE: After 1927
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE):

DESCRIPTION:

(Letters refer to attached map). The concession stand (A) is a one-story polygonal masonry building with a hip roof with eyebrow dormers and standing seams, and a surrounding porch supported by iron columns. The comfort station (B) is one of two identical one-story wood frame rectangular buildings on a raised block foundation, with clapboard siding, hipped roof, and hipped dormers. The comfort station (E) is a one-story square frame building with clapboard siding, hip roof, and semi-circular dormers. The pavilion (F) is an octagonal, rustic wood "Adirondack" type of structure with octagonal roof and open sides. The concession stand (H) is a one-story, three bay wide wood frame polygonal building with a shingle covered base, board and battens above and a polygonal hip roof. Also on the premises are two concrete block bathhouse complexes (D and I), the fort (G, see AA 897), and the house-like administration building, or barracks (C, see AA 897).

SIGNIFICANCE:

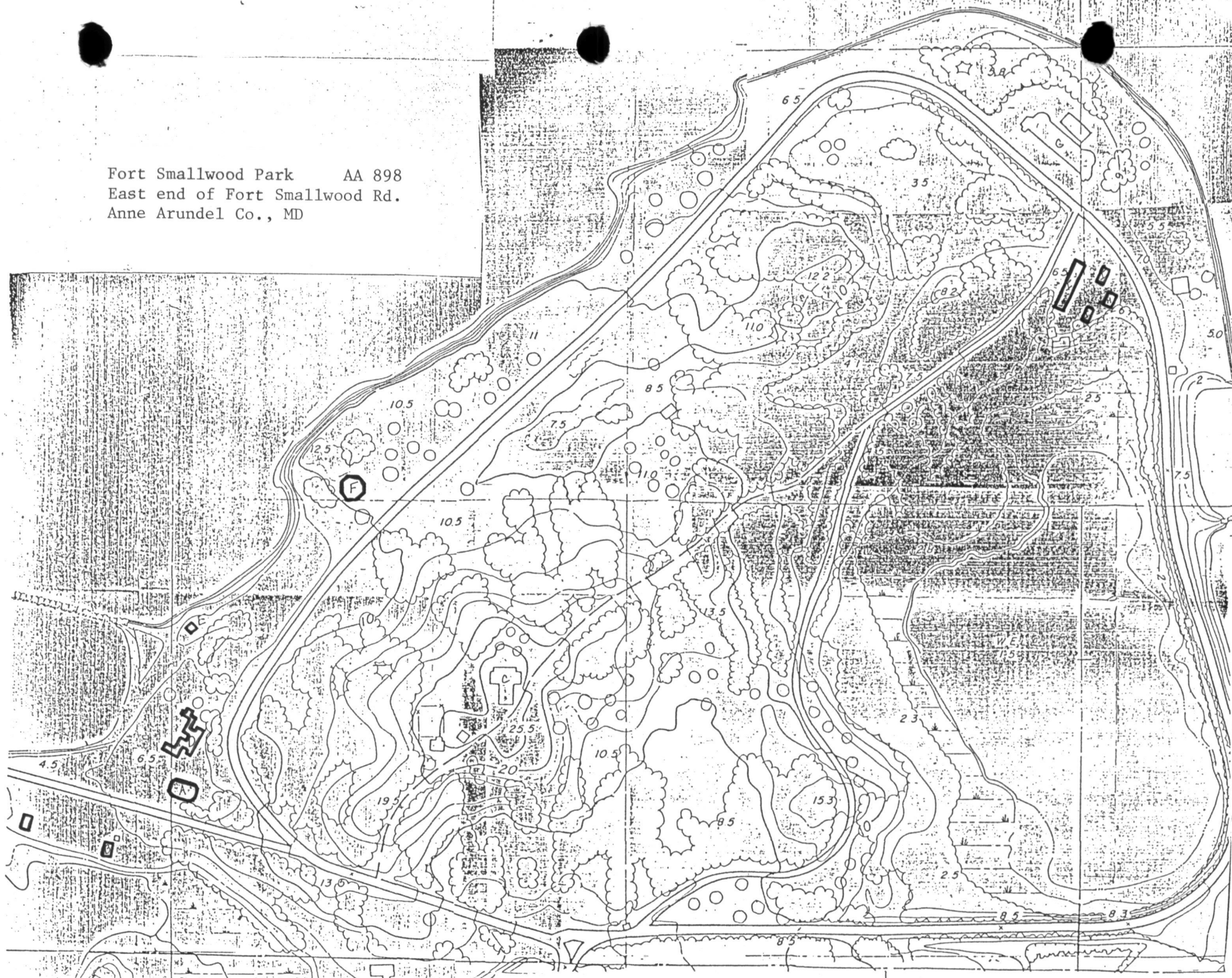
AREA: Architecture LEVEL: Local

Fort Smallwood Park is the only waterfront park owned by Baltimore City that dates from the period of the 1920's-1930's. Originally a federal fort under the Endicott system, the Olmsted Brothers recommended in 1926 that the City purchase it for conversion to a park. This was done in 1927 at a cost of \$50,000. Between then and 1931 the frame barracks building was converted to an administration building. In 1931 a concession stand with a standing seam roof was added (probably A). The comfort station (E) was standing by 1937, as evident in a Sun photograph. In the 1930's the City provided a steamer for transportation to the park. During W.W.II the park was abandoned and the bathing beach washed away. In 1947 the City built a new beach on the east, along with a new bathhouse (probably I), and moved some old structures over to this area (probably including H). The new bathhouse on the west beach was built in 1951, probably in reaction to a segregation suit filed by City blacks to gain admittance to the park. The park was not integrated, however, until after the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Fort Smallwood Park has suffered from many floods over its history, and many original buildings have disappeared, including horse stables, a band stand, shelter houses, concession stands, a water tank, dressing booths and lockers, and several piers.

SOURCES: Olmsted Brothers, Report...on Park Extension for Baltimore, 1926; The Sun, 7/19/1930, 4/19/1931, 7/18/1937, 8/31/1946, 6/28/1947, Baltimore City Archives, RG 35: Box 89, #2709; Box 99, #5999; Box 107, #7912.

SURVEYOR AND DATE: Kenneth M. Short, November 1987

Fort Smallwood Park AA 898
East end of Fort Smallwood Rd.
Anne Arundel Co., MD





Fort Smallwood Park AA898
Concession Stand (A)
East end of Ft. Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: October 1987
Neg loc: Maryland Historical Trust
South Elev.
1/8



Fort Smallwood Park AAB98
Concession Stand (A)

East end of Ft. Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: October 1987

Neg loc: Maryland Historical Trust

SE Elev

2/8



Fort Smallwood Park AA 898
Comfort Station (CB)
East end of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: October 1987
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
North elev.
3/8



Fort Smallwood Park AA 898
Bath House (D)
East end of Ft. Smallwood Rd.
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: October 1987
Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust
N.W. Elev
4/8



Fort Smallwood Park AA898
Comfort Station (E)

East End of Ft. Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M Short

Date: October 1987

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust

S.W. Elev

5/8



Fort Smallwood Park AA898
Pavilion (F)

East end of Ft. Smallwood Rd.
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: October 1987

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
View from S.E.

6/8



Fort Smallwood Park AA898
Concession Stand (H)
East end of Ft. Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: October, 1987
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
N.W. Elev.
7/8



Fort Smallwood Park AA 898
East Bath House Complex (I)
East end of Ft. Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: October 1987
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
North elevs
8/8